

# Flies

## Information leaflet

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EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## **WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?**

The Common Housefly and the Lesser Housefly both range between 6 and 8mm long. The Common Housefly has dark longitudinal stripes and a central dark band. When resting, wings are spread. The Lesser Housefly has 3 longitudinal stripes, with a yellow patch at the base of the abdomen. The wings are folded back when resting.

Cluster flies are commonly found throughout Europe and the UK the name refers to their habit of clustering together in large numbers and hibernating in buildings. There are several species found in the UK but they are often found in mixed swarms. The sizes vary between species from 3 to 8 mm.

## **WHERE DO THEY LIVE?**

Lesser Houseflies can often be found in poultry houses. Their flight pattern is erratic, and they are often seen flying in large numbers around indoor light fittings. The Lesser Housefly generally appears in March, slightly earlier than the Common Housefly due to their increased resistance to colder temperatures.

Cluster Flies are of no importance during the summer months, as the season cools they seek shelter in nooks and crannies in houses and other buildings. When the temperature drops further they seek greater protection and often form very large clusters in lofts or roof spaces and will give off a sickly smell.

## **DISEASE TRANSMISSIONS**

The presence of some species of fly may constitute a risk to health from disease.

Some flies can carry organisms from the “unsavoury” food material upon which they settle and feed.

## **CONTROL METHODS**

Domestic refuse should be stored in sealed containers. Fly screens, air curtains, bead screens, or self-closing doors equipped with rubber flaps should be used where possible to prevent entry into properties.

Farm Manure should be kept as dry as possible, especially in poultry houses where leaking water feeders can provide ideal, moist breeding conditions.

If your premises have been used for hibernation before, hanging insecticidal strips in the loft or attic may be helpful in reducing the numbers of flies.

If a cluster is accessible a vacuum cleaner can be used to collect them, and the vacuum bag can then be disposed of sealed inside a plastic bag.

Aerosol fly killers will deal effectively with small clusters, but larger ones may need to be treated by a pest control contractor.

Insecticides should be used to complement good hygiene.

### **HOW WE CAN HELP**

East Cambridgeshire District Council **does not** offer treatment for flies.

Private Pest Control companies do offer a treatment service and are listed in the local directory/ yellow pages.

For further advice, please contact Environmental Services on 01353 665555.

**WHEN USING INSECTICIDES ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL.**